



Summer School Paris 29th June-4th July 2015



Introduction: The Crossroads of Professionalization

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Career paths pave the way for subsistence, meaning and fulfilment, both in personal life and society. Since the 1900s, theories, educational and support structures have been recreated to address the challenges of vocational development. Recently, career guidance and counselling (CGC) is becoming an increasingly autonomous discipline with its own university institutions and chairs. The *European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling*, founded in 2013, is a further milestone in this professionalization. It is a collaborative venture of the *European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling* and the *Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe*. The aim is to promote an international CGC research community, particularly through the organisation of summer schools. The first summer school took place in Padova 2014. This year it was held in Paris, organised by ECADOC's scientific committee, including Laura Nota, Valérie Cohen-Scali, Rachel Mulvey, Jérôme Rossier, Rie Thomsen, Peter Weber and Johannes Katsarov. The event was hosted by Valérie Cohen-Scali at the *Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers*. Twenty-eight PhD students from twenty-two countries were selected as participants. They had the opportunity to develop their research competencies and present their research projects.

The programme included:

- Cross-cultural and international research on CGC, its methodologies and challenges (Laura Nota & Salvatore Soresi; Fons van de Vijver; Ronald Sultana),
- Explicitation interview techniques (Anne Cazemajou),
- Qualitative procedures in CGC (Maria Eduarda Duarte)
- International research databases in the field of education (e.g. PISA) for CGC (Patrick Werquin),
- Presentation of the UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counselling, especially the "Incheon Declaration Education 2030: Towards inclusion & equitable quality education & lifelong learning for all" (Jean Guichard, Sobhi Tawil & Borhene Chakroun)
- Presentation of the European Research Agenda of the ECADOC project (Peter Weber & Johannes Katsarov)
- Strategies for dissemination and publication of CGC research finding (Hazel Reid) and
- Reflective activities about summer school and personal career development (Rachel Mulvey & Rie Thomsen).

The summer school also included other cultural activities to foster the international CGC community: a Seine river dinner and cruise, a visit to the CNAM Museum and a picnic under the Eiffel tower. This newsletter serves to give voice to the experiences of the future career counselling and guidance researchers that were selected.



ECADOC summer school participants from all over the world sharing a Parisian supper and research ideas.

Personal highlights and impressions from PhD students



Coming together

Nurten Karacan Ozdemir, Middle East Technical University of Ankara (Turkey), PhD topic “Determining the Factors Influencing Career Adaptability among High and Low SES High School Students”

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” (Henry Ford)

This quote summarises ECADOC from beginning to the end for me. The programme selected students from all over the world to discuss crucial CGC problems, creating more awareness collectively and establishing a research community. I realised the value of being a team in order to overcome our field’s challenges. My attention shifted from individual research to collaborative studies. The workshop of Fons van de Vijver on “Cross-Cultural Research methodologies” explicated pivotal steps towards conducting cross-cultural studies. Although he noted potential problems encountered when

undertaking cross-cultural research, he also simultaneously provided solutions. Actually, this workshop integrated the ideas in my mind about my dissertation. It was an honour to take courses from the professors whose articles I had read before.

Overcoming challenges at the ECADOC summer school

Iva Černja, University of Zagreb (Croatia), PhD topic “Career maturity and Holland’s secondary construct of vocational interests”



The introduction of CGC researchers and meeting PhD students from all over the world was a useful experience. I am just in the first year of my PhD studies, and it was interesting to hear about the diverse experiences of the other participants. I believe that this diversity is very important when choosing candidates for the summer school. As a new student, it was the experience of hearing various accounts of students, who are at different stages of their PhD, and exposing my research to other students and professors, that were very important for me. I am glad that I had the opportunity to overcome the challenge of presenting my research in another language at the beginning of my doctoral studies in this summer school.



My first time at the ECADOC summer school

Chris Podwójcic, Instytut Badań Edukacyjnych (Poland), PhD topic “Career offices in universities and cooperation between higher education institution and companies”

My personal highlight was the presentation of our PhD studies in the workshop led by Rie Thomsen. Two days later, I noticed an intriguing sentence by Ronald Sultana that stuck with me about CGC, namely that “People are being asked to walk hazardous pathways with no specific form of protection”. This reemphasized the value of the sociological approach, which I have chosen for my PhD thesis, which stands in contrast to the psychological orientation of most CGC professionals in Poland. I was nervous as this was my first English presentation, and I had to continue without any materials as the data projector stopped functioning. Still I was lucky, because the listeners seemed to be very engaged in the issues that I mentioned. Afterwards, I had a very fruitful conversation with Roland Sultana about theoretical frameworks to use in my dissertation for describing the situation of young graduates on labour market (for example risk and uncertainty by Ulrich Beck and Gerd Gigerenzer). The experience supported me very much and gave me more confidence in my PhD studies and presenting in a foreign language.

Explicitation interview

Aniek Draaisma, Open University of the Netherlands (Netherlands), PhD topic “Career learning environments in secondary vocational education”



A full day of the summer school was devoted to the theory and practice of the qualitative research method ‘Explicitation interview’ presented by Anne Cazemajou. This technique aims to make implicit knowledge explicit. This means that the interviewer gains information about the interviewee, but also helps the interviewee to gain new information about him/herself. To explain this technique and the conditions required in a few words would not do the experience justice. However, the lessons we learned went beyond the explicitation interview as a

research method. The approach generally seems useful in our work with students or other ‘clients’ in the practice of CGC. Furthermore, Anne highlighted important interview guidelines, such as social contracts and ethical codes, which are also relevant for other research methods. The emphasis was on showing sincere interest, investing in relationships and paying close attention to personal experiences as valuable and relevant resources in academic research. I could not agree more!



The power of questions

Christina Pernsteiner, University of Graz (Austria), PhD topic “Children’s perspectives on the world of work”

The ECADOC summer school provides a unique platform. Researchers are brought together just at the beginning of their academic path. They get the opportunity to meet experts, who have already devoted much of their lifetime to CGC research and practice. In these fast-paced days, it is not self-evident to spend a whole week to learn and reflect in such a circle. In addition to the lectures and workshops, I found it most interesting to talk about how we handle our professional experiences. ECADOC highlighted the responsibility that research has, especially since there are very different areas of interest linked to CGC. It made me realise again that research is not only about the answers, which we find, but about what questions we ask, why and for whom.

The broader context of CGC research

Sanna Makinen, University of Eastern Finland (Finland), PhD topic “Agency and direction-making in the life paths of educationally marginalised young adults”



One of the highlights for me was the keynote by Ronald Sultana. His presentation “Collaborative and Cross-Cultural Research in Career Guidance” started with examples, where he had been involved. Sultana invited us to reflect on the complexity of CGC research. There are several political, cultural, methodological and epistemological paths to take and “languages to use”. Sultana argued that, both in guidance practice and research, there is a need to establish a firmer theoretical viewpoint from social theories. Social structures, such as gender, ethnicity, class and location, together with complex circumstances of nations in a globalised world, contribute to the production of individual life trajectories. These essential questions of broader *context* need to be examined critically, if we want to increase our understanding of careers in the 21st century. Sociological views about liquid society, reflexive modernisation, individualism, governmentality and the relationship between structure and agency will also help us to reflect on some of the discourses embedded in policy objectives and everyday educational and vocational guidance practices. This understanding will hopefully contribute to the development of culturally sensitive practices that empower individuals and communities. Differences in access to social, cultural and practical resources are also determined by the economic, societal, communal and everyday contexts individuals are born into and live in.

Super diversity as a research challenge



Sara Santilli, University of Padova (Italy), PhD topic “Career Adaptability, Positive Psychology and Satisfaction with Life”

Ilaria di Maggio, University of Padova (Italy), PhD topic “Career Counselling and drug addiction”



We live in an extremely diverse society, with people who differ racially, ethnically, religiously or economically. This is one of the most urgent challenge that researchers have to face today. We need to counteract the pressure towards individualism and competition by creating collective solidarity which aims to include different perspectives effectively. People should co-operate online, on street corners, in schools, at work, and in local politics. Therefore, many sessions were dedicated to the sharing of ideas, utilising diverse areas of expertise and planning new innovative research projects together. Some participants also presented joint studies, which were developed after the first summer school. These examples made collaborations visible. We really believe that writing this newsletter is the first attempt for participants of the second summer school to move in this direction.

Unpacking the multi-layered reality of a moment

Anouk Albien, Stellenbosch University (South Africa), PhD topic “A mixed-methods analysis of black adolescents’ vocational identity status and career adaptability competencies in a low income township”



At the recommendation of my supervisor Prof Naidoo, I applied and was selected to attend the summer school as the recipient of an international scholarship. Different narratives shape who we are now, who we were and who we could become. If used properly, narratives and reflection can engage others and move them to action. This was my realisation from the ECADOC Summer School, enhanced by the Explicitation workshop. I learned that the multi-layered reality of a moment can be unpacked through active reflection. A heartfelt thank you is sent to ECADOC who made this eye-opening experience possible!



Since the summer school, the participants (pictured below) have begun to create international research collaborations as career counselling and guidance researchers who aim to bridge cultural and language divides in creating cross-cultural and comparative research contributions.



Photo Credits:
ECADOC Summer School participants,
except “Paris from above at Night” (Ben Lieu Song)